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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/893,541	06/28/2001	Alex Cabanes	IBM 2 0010 SVL920010028US	4450
7590 07/06/2004 Michael E. Hudzinski FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN, MINNICH & McKEE, LLP 1100 Superior Avenue, Seventh Floor Cleveland, OH 44110-2518			EXAMINER NARAYANASWAMY, SINDYA	
			ART UNIT 2174	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 07/06/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/893,541

Applicant(s)

CABANES ET AL.

Examiner

Sindya Narayanaswamy

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 - 39 are presented for examination.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-34 and 36-39 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Rochford et al, (hereinafter Rochford), US-6,691,282.

4. As per claim 1, Rochford teaches a user interface method for executing one or more operations in a computer for interfacing an associated user with a knowledge portal that is operatively associated with a plurality of data objects (*file folder hierarchy*), the user interface method comprising the steps of: receiving a user input; updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity (*displaying a list of contents of selected file folder*), a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter (*general map is drawn*); updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter (*direct containment hierarchy is redrawn to include the selected file folder*); displaying in a document pane at least a portion of the current object; displaying in a map pane the K-map; and displaying in a preview pane contents associated with the preview object (*contents of the newly selected child file folder are displayed*

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*in place of the list of contents previously displayed*) (hierarchy in first window, list of contents in second window, child file folders displayed upon selection, Fig. 4A, 30 (preview)) (Fig. 4a, col. 2, lines 13-31, col. 4, lines 34-48).

5. As per claim 2, Rochford teaches a user interface method wherein the step of updating, based upon the received user input (*displaying a list of contents of selected file folder*), at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity (*general map is drawn*); and a K-map parameter includes updating a K-map view selector based upon the received user input (*map zoom options*); and the step of displaying in a map pane the K-map includes selectively displaying one of a tree view or a node view of the K-map based upon the setting of the K-map view selector (*containment hierarchy immediately redrawn upon selection to display update*) (col. 4, lines 51-58).

6. As per claim 3, Rochford teaches the user interface wherein the step of updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating K-map class selector value based upon the received user input (*displaying a list of contents of selected file folder, general map is re-drawn*); and the step of updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects corresponding to the K-map class selector value (*ie North America - >Canada, United States, Mexico*) (Fig. 4A, 30; Fig. 4B, 32).

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7. As per claim 4, Rochford teaches the user interface method wherein the step of updating a K-map class selector value includes updating the K-map selector value to correspond to *one* of a people class, a places class, and a things class based upon the received user input (*K-map selector values are comprised of places*) (Fig. 4A).

8. As per claim 5, Rochford teaches the user interface method wherein the step of updating based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating K-map scope based upon the received user input; and the step of updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects within the K-map scope (*K-map scope is defined as the subsets of the hierarchy, ie geographic places*) (col. 3, lines 25-46; col. 4, lines 51-58).

9. As per claim 6, Rochford teaches the user interface method wherein the step of receiving a user input includes receiving a selection of the current object identity from the user through the K-map pane (*selection/zoom of map window*); and the step of updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects related to the current object (*upon selection of continent, related (inclusive) countries are displayed, upon selection of country related (inclusive) cities are displayed*) (Fig. 4A).

10. As per claim 7, Rochford teaches the user interface wherein the step of receiving a user input includes receiving a selection of the preview object identity from the user through the K-map pane (*user input can be entered or selected from list*) (Fig. 4A, 30, 46).

11. As per claim 8, Rochford teaches the user interface wherein the step of receiving a user input includes receiving a text entry through user highlighting of text in the document display pane; the step of updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of current object identity, a preview object identity, and K-map parameter includes updating an object K-map parameter to correspond with the received text entry (search window provided which allows a user to enter a textual search criterion); and the step of updating a K-map conditional upon updating K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects related to the selected text (*text input in search bar*) (Fig. 4a, 46; col. 2, lines 13-31, col. 4, lines 34-48; col. 5, lines 37-43).

12. As per claim 9, Rochford teaches the user interface further including simultaneously displaying the document pane, the map pane, and the preview pane on a single display device (*figure indicates single display, Fig. 9 indicates only one display portion for device*) (Fig. 5; Fig. 9, 14).

13. As per claims 10 – 18, they are the apparatus claims of claims 1-9 and are thus rejected on the same basis.

14. As per claims 19-26, they are the article claims of claims 1-9 and are thus rejected on the same basis.

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15. As per claim 27, teaches the user interface method including simultaneously displaying the document pane, the map pane, and the preview pane on a single display device (Fig. 4c, 40, 54, 34).

16. As per claim 28, Rochford teaches the user interface for interfacing an associated user with a knowledge portal that is operatively associated with a plurality of data objects, the user interface comprising a means for receiving user input; a K-map processor (*processing platform*) for calculating a K-map corresponding to a current object and a set of K-map parameters; a current object display pane for displaying at least a portion of the current object; a K-map display pane for displaying the K-map; and a preview pane for displaying contents corresponding to a preview object (*portion of contents displayed on general map, which can be zoomed in upon*) (Fig. 4C, 54; col. 4, lines 34-58).

17. As per claim 29, Rochford teaches the user interface wherein the set of K-map parameters includes a view mode parameter; the K-map display displays the K-map in a node view conditional upon the view mode parameter corresponding to a node view (*Fig. 4A, 30, node view*); and the K-map display pane displays the K-map in a tree view conditional upon the view mode parameter corresponding to a tree view (*parent and child folder display*) (*breakdown World – North America – Canada – Ontario – Central Ontario (tree breakdown and view)*) (Fig. 1, Fig. 2, 20).



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18. As per claim 30, Rochford teaches the user interface wherein the set of K-map parameters includes a class parameter; and the K-map processor calculates a K-map containing objects limited to objects corresponding to the class parameter (*processing platform of device*) (Fig. 9, 10).

19. As per claim 31, Rochford teaches the user interface wherein the means for receiving a user input include a pointing device selection means operative at least within the K-map display pane; and the class parameter is selectively updateable by the user via the pointing device selection means operating on a graphical class input dialog (*mousing over*) (col. 6, lines 4-23).

20. As per claim 32, Rochford teaches the user interface wherein the class parameter selectively takes values including a people class value, a places class value or a things class value (*places*) (Fig. 3, 20).

21. As per claim 33, Rochford teaches the user interface wherein the set of K-map parameters includes a scope parameter; and the K-map processor calculates a K-map containing objects limited to objects whose relationship to the current object falls within the scope parameter value (*K-map displayed only within scope of value in 40*) (Fig. 4; 40, 50).

22. As per claim 34, Rochford teaches the user interface wherein the means for receiving a user input include a pointing device selection (*mousing over*) means operative at least within the

K-map display pane; and the scope parameter is selectively updateable by the user via the pointing device selection means operating on a graphical scope input dialog (col. 6, lines 4-23).

23. As per claims 36 and 37, Rochford teaches user interface wherein the means for receiving a user input includes a pointing device selection means operative at least within the K-map display pane; and the preview and current object is selectively updateable by the user via the pointing device selection means operating within the K-map display pane (*arrow can be dragged or otherwise controlled by user input device to update the hierarchy/display*)(col. 6, lines 4-23).

24. As per claim 38, Rochford teaches the user interface wherein the set of K-map parameters includes an object parameters, the object parameter being selectively updateable by the user; and the K-map processor calculates a K-map containing objects related to the object corresponding to the object parameter (*K-map displayed only within scope of value in 40*) (Fig. 4; 40, 50).

25. As per claim 39, Rochford teaches the user interface wherein the means for receiving a user input include a pointing device selection means operative at least within the document display pane whereby the user selectively updates the object parameter by selecting text corresponding thereto from the contents of the document display pane (*user input pointing device allows user to select textual links (ie Canada, Toronto)*) (col. 6, lines 4-23).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

26. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

27. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Rochford et al (hereinafter Rochford), US-66,91,282.

28. As per claim 35, Rochford does not explicitly teach the user interface wherein the graphical scope input dialog is a slider bar. However, Official Notice is taken that slider bars are well known in the art and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to extent the teaching of Rochford to include a slider bar in order to the user to have the additional capability of navigating the map interface with a sliding bar that navigated the user up, down and to the right and left.

***Conclusion***

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

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- a. Malacinski et al. – US 6,348,935, hierarchy, tree view, user interface with multiple panes.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sindya Narayanaswamy whose telephone number is (703) 305-8473. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am to 5 pm, first Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached at (703) 308-0640. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-5404 for regular communications and (703) 305-5404 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Sindya Narayanaswamy

June 23, 2004

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